

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /069 W

----- 001573

R 310730Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2918

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, SO, SA

SUBJECT: GSDR BEGINS SEMINAR FOR SOMALI SHEIKHS

1. SOMALI SECSTATE FOR JUSTICE AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS OPENED ON MAY 27

TWO-WEEK SEMINAR FOR SEVENTY-FOUR GOVERNMENT-EMPLOYED SOMALI SHEIKHS OR MULLAHS WHO LEAD PRAYERS IN BENADIR REGION MOSQUES (MOGADISCIO). SEMINAR IS DESIGNED TO INFORM SHEIKHS OF GSDR POLICIES AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON SHEIKHS' ROLE IN SOMALI DEVELOPMENT. SHEIKHS WILL BE ADDRESSED IN TURN BY PRES. SIAD AND GSDR VICE PRESIDENTS.

2. IN OPENING ADDRESS, SECSTATE ABDISALAM SHEIKH HUSSEIN SAID THAT GSDR WAS FOLLOWING TENETS OF ISLAM IN ADVANCING WELFARE OF SOMALI PEOPLE. HE SAID THAT MULLAHS AND ISLAM HAD PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN LIBERATING SOMALIA FROM COLONIZERS AND WOULD NOT BE ABANDONED NOW.

3. HE WARNED MULLAHS AGAINST THOSE TROUBLEMAKERS WHO EXPLOITED ISLAM IN ATTEMPTING DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN GSDR AND SOMALI PEOPLE. HE TOLD MULLAHS THAT THEY SHOULD LEAD PEOPLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SHARI'ATIC LAW AND MAKE MOST OF THE TWO-WEEK TRAINING COURSE IN ORDER TO CARRY
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WORD TO OTHER MULLAHS AS WELL (I.E., NON-GOVERNMENT EMPLOYED MULLAHS).

4. SECSTATE'S ADDRESS WAS PUBLICIZED ON FRONT PAGE OF OFFICIAL DAILY OKTOBER STAR MAY 29.

5. GSDR SEMINAR FOR SOMALI SHEIKHS IS MOST OSTENTATIOUS EVIDENCE TO DATE OF SIAD'S ATTEMPT TO LIVE UP TO AGREEMENT IMPLICIT IN JOINT SAUDI/SOMALI COMMUNIQUE SIGNED IN JIDDA THAT ISLAMIC LAW WOULD RULE IN SOMALIA. SEMINAR COMES ON EVE OF ARAB SUMMIT WHICH GSDR STILL BELIEVES WILL BE HELD IN MOGADISCIO.

6. AT MINIMUM, SIAD'S HOPE IS THAT HE CAN KEEP MULLAHS FIRMLY UNDER THUMB AND, IN HIS OWN WORDS, PROVIDE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH QTE RELIGION CAN GO PARALLEL WITH SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM WITHOUT EITHER HARMING THE OTHER UNQTE. MULLAHS ATTENDING SEMINAR ARE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO LEAD FRIDAY DISCUSSIONS IN LOCAL MOSQUES. ALLNCON-GOVERNMENT MULLAHS HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM SUCH ACTIVITY SINCE FEBRUARY, FOLLOWING JANUARY EXECUTION OF TEN SHEIKHS.

7. NON-GOVERNMENT MULLAHS ARE ONES SIAD MUST WORRY ABOUT HOWEVER AND IF THEY BELIEVE THAT THEY NOW HAVE DISPENSATION TO MORE ACTIVELY PURSUE LETTER OF SHARI'ATIC LAW, THEN GSDR POLITICAL PROGRAMS WILL ONCE AGAIN BECOME THEIR TARGET. WE ARE IN SHORT NOT RPT NOT CONFIDENT THAT SIAD CAN CONTINUE TO KEEP LID ON MULLAHS' ANTIPATHY TO SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM AND SOVIET PRESENCE IN SOMALIA, ESPECIALLY WITH GSDR NOW ENCOURAGING BELIEF THAT ISLAMIC LAW TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER.

HAMRICK

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